

Docket No.: UPVG0005-101  
PATENT

Appl. Number: 10/734,024  
Filed: 12/11/2003

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 6-13 and add new claims 14-26 as follows.

1 (Currently Amended). A method of inhibiting proliferation of cells which comprises the step of: contacting cells with an amount of Vpr vpr protein or a functional fragment thereof effective to inhibit cell proliferation; or introducing into cells a nucleic acid molecule that comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes vpr protein or a functional fragment thereof whereby said nucleotide sequence is expressed by said cells.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are differentiated.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are undifferentiated.

4 (Currently Amended). A method of preventing lymphocyte activation which comprises the step of: contacting a lymphocyte cell with an amount of Vpr vpr protein or a functional fragment thereof effective to prevent activation; or introducing into cells a nucleic acid molecule that comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes vpr protein or a functional fragment thereof whereby said nucleotide sequence is expressed by said cells.

5 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are T cells, ~~B cells or~~ monocytes.

6-13 (Canceled)

14 (New). The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are B cells.

15 (New). The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are monocytes.

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16 (New). The method of claim 1 which comprises the step of: contacting cells with Vpr protein.

17 (New). The method of claim 16 wherein said cells are T cells.

18 (New). The method of claim 16 wherein said cells are B cells.

19 (New). The method of claim 16 wherein said cells are monocytes.

20 (New). The method of claim 1 which comprises the step of: contacting cells with a functional fragment of Vpr protein.

21 (New). The method of claim 4 which comprises the step of: contacting lymphocyte cells with Vpr protein.

22 (New). The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.

23 (New). The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.

24 (New). The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are monocytes.

25 (New). The method of claim 4 which comprises the step of: contacting lymphocyte cells with a functional fragment of Vpr protein.

26 (New). The method of claim 25 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.

27 (New). The method of claim 25 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.

28 (New). The method of claim 25 wherein said lymphocyte cells are monocytes.